

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

MARYLAND SHALL ISSUE, INC., *et al.*,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.) Case No. 8:21-cv-01736-TDC (L)
) Case No. 8:22-cv-01967-DLB
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.,)
)
Defendant.)

DECLARATION OF JOHN SMITH NO.1

COMES NOW, the declarant, JOHN SMITH NO.1, and hereby solemnly declares under penalties of perjury and states that based upon personal knowledge that the contents of the following declaration are true:

1. My name is JOHN SMITH NO.1, and I am member of Maryland Shall Issue, Inc., a plaintiff in the above-captioned matter. I am an adult over the age of 18, a Montgomery County Maryland resident and I am fully competent to give sworn testimony in this matter. JOHN SMITH NO. 1 is not my real name. I respectfully request that my identity remain anonymous. While I provide armed security to my Church, I have done so anonymously and the effectiveness of that security would be undermined if my role in doing so became public knowledge. Moreover, regretfully, I am concerned that my livelihood would be jeopardized should I be publicly associated with pro-Second Amendment advocacy.

2. I am a Deacon at my Church in Montgomery County and I serve (anonymously) as a volunteer plain-clothed armed security member of my Church located in Montgomery County Maryland with the permission of my pastor and other Deacons.

EXHIBIT S

1 3. After the U.S. Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision in June of this year I decided to
2 obtain a Maryland Wear and Carry Permit for self-defense to include carrying a concealed firearm
3 at church. I applied for and received an unrestricted Maryland Wear and Carry Permit earlier this
4 fall.
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6 4. I chose to obtain a MD wear and Carry permit due to the violence seen across
7 the country in every day places one might find themselves such as a store or church like the
8 Walmart shooting in Chesapeake VA on November 22, 2022 where 6 people were killed and 4
9 injured; Nightclub shooting in Colorado Springs on November 19, 2022 where 5 people were
10 killed and 25 others were injured; Greenwood Park Mall in Indiana on July 17, 2022 where 3
11 people were killed before the gunman was killed by an armed citizen stopping the attack;
12 Collierville Kroger Shooting on September 23, 2021 where one was killed and 14 injured;
13 Colorado Springs Shooting at a trailer park on May 9, 2021 where 6 people were killed at a
14 birthday party in a trailer park; West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, Texas on
15 December 29, 2019 where 2 congregants were killed before armed church security ended the threat
16 by shooting the perpetrator; Sutherland Springs Church Shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas on
17 November 5, 2017 where 26 people were killed and 22 injured; Charleston church shooting in
18 Charleston, South Carolina on June 17, 2015 where 9 congregants were killed. Our church has
19 been concerned for safety for several years as we used to hire an off duty officer to provide security
20 but have moved to armed church members.
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24 5. Other religions have also experienced deadly attacks such as Jewish synagogues.
25 Terrorists had attacked and killed all the members of the Mumbai (Bombay) Chabad Synagogue
26 in India. Serious armed attacks against Jewish institutions in the U.S. had occurred in Los Angeles,
27 Washington D.C., New York, Baltimore, and many other cities. Many congregants were killed at
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1 a synagogue in Har Nof Jerusalem; four people were executed at the Hyper Cacher market (Kosher
2 Supermarket) in Paris; a congregant was killed outside the synagogue in Copenhagen, a child and
3 son of the Chabad Rabbi were attacked in New Zealand.

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5 6. More recently there were the tragic attacks on the Tree of Life Synagogue in
6 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Poway Chabad Synagogue in California that left many innocent
7 congregants dead. There are nearly daily assaults on Jews in New York and across the country.

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9 7. We know the police are spread thin and a terrorist can inflict great deal of harm
10 before police could arrive at our location. In our congregation, small prayer groups meet early in
11 the morning on weekends as well as in the evening during the week on occasion and are
12 particularly vulnerable at these times.

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14 8. By its text, Bill 21-22E has banned the possession and transport of firearms at
15 and within 100 yards of health care facilities (doctors offices, urgent care facilities, nursing homes,
16 hospitals) Parks (any kind) and any government property or facility operated or controlled by
17 Montgomery County. The bill also removes the exception for authorized Maryland Wear and
18 Carry permit holders. The effect of this on any permit holder is that in large parts of the County it
19 is now a crime to carry with a permit in order to protect oneself. It is very difficult to know which
20 one of these restricted places is within 100 yards (300 feet) of any place a permit holder may be.

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22 9. By its text, Bill 21-22E has banned the possession and transport of firearms at
23 and within 100 yards of a "house of worship." That ban has stripped Christian Churches, as well
24 as other houses of worship in the County, of the armed protection provided by members of their
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1 congregations like me, thus leaving these places of worship vulnerable to attack. The urgency and
2 need for such protection cannot be overstated.

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4 */s/ John Smith*

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6 Dated: November 30, 2022:
7 JOHN SMITH NO. 1
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